

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fixing member having a main body to affix elements to a plate, the fixing member comprising:

a support protruding from the main body;

a plate-like portion provided at the end of said support, at least part of said plate-like portion extending outwardly from a side of said support;

an extending portion extending from the main body, wherein when said plate-like portion is inserted into an attachment hole provided in the plate and allowing said plate-like portion to pass through the plate, said extending portion is pressed against the plate and elastically deformed in order to attach said fixing member to the plate;

an abutting portion provided on said plate-like portion for abutting a plate surface of the plate, wherein when said plate-like portion is inserted through said attachment hole and slid transversely with respect to the hole in order to elastically deform said extending portion, said abutting portion abuts the plate surface around at least a portion of the circumference of said attachment hole at a predetermined abutting position by a biasing force from said elastic deformation of said extending portion; and

displacement preventing means for preventing said abutting portion from being displaced from said predetermined abutting position.

2. The fixing member according to claim 1, wherein said displacement preventing means comprises a projection provided at the end of said extending portion and engageable with a locating hole provided in the plate.

3. The fixing member according to claim 1, wherein said displacement preventing means comprises an engagement projection disposed on said abutting portion of said plate-like portion and engageable with an engagement hole or an engagement recess provided in the plate.

4. The fixing member according to claim 3, wherein at least a portion of said main body is elastically deformable and when said main body is pressed against the plate, said portion of said main body is elastically deformed, with said plate-like member, said support and said engagement projection being thereby displaced relative to the plate and said engagement holes or recesses.

5. The fixing member according to claim 2, wherein said support has a first surface shaped and positioned such that when said first surface abuts an inner surface of said attachment hole, said plate-like portion fits within said attachment hole without overlapping the plate.

6. The fixing member according to claim 5, wherein said support has a second surface shaped and positioned such that when said second surface is moved against the inner surface of said attachment hole with said second surface abutting said inner surface, said projection engages with the locating hole.

7. The fixing member according to claim 6, wherein said first and second surfaces of said support have a respective first and second radius of curvature corresponding to a radius of curvature of the inner surface of the attachment hole provided in the plate.

8. The fixing member according to claim 7, wherein said main body is defined about a central axis and the plate-like portion provided at the end of said support is defined about an offset axis spaced from said central axis.

9. The fixing member according to claim 8, wherein the first radius of curvature is defined about the offset axis and the second radius of curvature is defined about the central axis and an intersection of the first and second surfaces of the support and the respective first and second radii of curvature corresponds to the distance between the central axis and the offset axis.

10. A fixing structure for affixing a main body to a component, said structure comprising:

- a retaining member located separately from and also facing said main body for clamping the component between said retaining member and said main body;

- a connecting member for connecting said main body to said retaining member such that at least part of the component is sandwiched therebetween; and

- a projection provided to said retaining member for being engaged with the component when at least part of the component is clamped between said main body and said retaining member, thereby

preventing the component from moving relative to said main body and said retaining member, and

at least a part of said main body being elastically deformable and when said main body is pressed against an attachment surface of the component, said part of said main body being elastically deformed, and with said retaining member, said connecting member and said projection being displaced relative to the component and said projection being disengaged from the component.

11. The fixing structure according to claim 10, wherein said main body has a second projection projecting toward said first projection, said second projection being engageable with a locating hole provided in the component, and said first projection and said second projection cooperatively preventing the component from coming out from between said main body and said retaining member.

12. A method of using a fixing structure for affixing a main body to a component,

the fixing structure comprising:

a main body at least partly deformable;

a retaining member located separately from and also facing the main body for clamping the component between the retaining member and the main body;

a connecting member for connecting the main body to the retaining member such that at least part of the component is sandwiched therebetween; and

a projection provided to the retaining member for being engaged with the component when at least part of the component is clamped between the main body and the retaining member,

and the method comprising the steps of:

clamping at least part of the component with the main body and the retaining member, thereby preventing the component from moving relative to the main body and the retaining member; and

pressing the main body against an attachment surface of the component to elastically deform a part of the main body, and displacing the retaining member, the connecting member and the projection relative to the component, thereby making the projection disengaged from the component.